

HAMPTON VA

NEWS RELEASE

Division of Fire and Rescue

For immediate release

Capt. Jeffrey Pereira | jpereira@hampton.gov | 757-810-2745

Thanksgiving holiday kitchen fire safety

The Hampton Division of Fire & Rescue Fire wants to remind everyone to, “Stand by your pan!” during the Thanksgiving holidays. The National Fire Protection Association reports the threat of fires in the kitchen triples on Thanksgiving Day. Contributing factors to these types of fires include inexperience, lack of sleep, and distractions - particularly cell phone and alcohol.

The Hampton fire marshal recommends the following safety tips:

Before Thanksgiving Day:

- Clean the stovetop and oven of any built-up grease.
- Know where the closest fire extinguisher is located. On Thanksgiving Day:
- Keep the number of people in your kitchen to a minimum, especially children; crowded kitchens cause confusion and result in burns.
- Turn pot handles on the stovetop toward the center of the stove.
- Carefully position dishtowels and oven mitts away from stovetop elements.
- Pay attention to which burner is turned on and don't forget to turn it off when not in use.
- Use a timer as a reminder when a dish is done. Turkey Fryers can pose real fire dangers. Use outdoors and away from combustible surfaces.

In the event of a stovetop fire:

- Cautiously slide a cookie sheet or a lid over the pan and turn off the stove.
- Never attempt to carry a hot pan to the sink.

In the event of an oven fire:

- Close oven door and turn off heat. Once the oxygen has been depleted, the fire will go out.
- Wait until the oven has cooled before opening the door again. This applies to microwave ovens as well.
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If you are not able to extinguish the fire, evacuate everyone to your emergency assembly point and call 911 from your cell phone or a nearby neighbor.

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